

Weekly Views

October 28, 2011

The IDOC Audit Division is proud to announce that beginning January 2012, IDOC will be transitioning to an electronic audit system starting with program review audits. The Audit Division has received lots of positive feedback from field ACA managers in support of the electronic version. Indiana has already received inquiries from other states that are interested in an electronic system. Congratulations to the audit team for another Best Practice for Indiana!

The Indiana Women's Prison Family Preservation Program hosted the "Angel's Wings, Inc" 2011 Fall Festival. 44 offenders from the Family Preservations Program and their children attended the event. Approximately 144 children ranging from 4 to 17 years of age enjoyed an evening of crafts, games, food, and an opportunity to have fun bonding with their mothers and grandmothers. Angel's Wings, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting family preservation by providing alternative residential placement for children of offenders, fostering mentor relationships with pregnant offenders, and assisting female ex-offenders in the successful re-integration into the community.

Five representatives of the Oregon Department of Correction visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to tour and observe facility programming and operations. They were accompanied by Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger, Rockville Correctional Facility Superintendent Julie Stout, Executive Director of Staff Development and Emergency Operations Richard Curry, Ronald C. Allen from the Correctional Training Institute, and David Marcial from the Criminal Justice Institute in Middletown, Connecticut.

PEN Products hosted an all day Career Path Planning Workshop for 46 offenders at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility as part of a four day Re-entry Symposium. The workshop allowed offenders to take part in an interest and skills assessment, taught valuable time management skills, and challenged them on finding and retaining employment in their post-incarceration career.

Miami Correctional Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee raised more than \$85 with its annual "Savor the Soup" contest. Staff submitted six entries, including pumpkin, zuppa, chili, loaded potato, stuffed pepper, and white chili. Staff were then encouraged to vote for their favorite soup. Taking the prize was the stuffed pepper soup made by TyAnna Snyder.

Retired business leaders known as SCORE met with select Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) offenders to talk about their release efforts and how to lay the foundation for a successful small business plan when they return to society. Assistant Superintendent of Re-entry Jack Hendrix said the event, coordinated by the WVCF Speakers Bureau, is designed to enhance offender career opportunities as they prepare to go home.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Pre Release Department held its annual Job and Community Resource Fair. Over 200 offenders attended the event to gain knowledge of employment opportunities and to better understand the types of aid offered in their respective communities. Area colleges, businesses, community organizations, mental health providers, and government agencies such as Department of Child Services, Work One, Department of Veterans Affairs, Access to Recovery and two local Parole Offices distributed information at the event.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held their Quarterly Facility Assembly and Awards Ceremony. Receiving awards for Employee of the Quarter were: Correctional Officers Herb Boyd and John Turner, Non-Custody staff member, Barbara Atkinson, and Supervisor Sondra Woods. A Celebration and "Roast" for Tim Greathouse was also held in recognition of his promotion to the position of Superintendent at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. Executive Director Michael Dempsey and Program Director Chris Blessinger attended both events.

Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Varsity Basketball Team hosted an exciting evening of basketball with players from Trinity International University (TU). The TU Trojans, who traveled from Deerfield, IL, were overpowered by WCC 138-110. WCC's team is coached by members of the facility's Recreation Department, who hold offender players to exceptionally high standards and encourage good sportsmanship, teamwork and education.

Seven Camp Summit employees were given awards for their outstanding contributions to the facility and state service over the past several months. In addition, four staff were given pins for years of State service ranging from 5-30 years. On hand to help recognize the employees was State Senator Jim Arnold and Bob Tayl, who are members of the Community Advisory Board for Camp Summit, Indiana State Prison and WCC.

A thank you was given to the Indiana State Prison for refurbishing and donating nine bicycles to the Catholic Charities Dioceses of Gary. The bicycles will be used for less fortunate adults who are requiring bicycles to look for work or for children in the area to receive their first bicycles.

Twenty-two offenders from the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) completed their vocational classes. Please join us in congratulating instructors Mr. Robert Cari and Ms. Rolanda Boggs and the offenders for a job well done!